

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 W

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O 242100Z EUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

SECSTATE WASHDC 4492

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 10227

USIAC

STATE FOR ARA; USIA FOR ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: VOL SPKR RIODAN ROETT

1. ROETT PRESS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS RESULTED IN HEAVY COVERAGE IN ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPERS, WITH MANY OF ROETT'S CANDID STATEMENTS RECEIVING SERIOUS ADVERSE REACTION HERE.

29 EXAMPLES OF HEADLINE PLAY: "AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS WILL DOMINATE LATIN AMERICA FOR NEXT SIX YEARS;" "DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS NOT PERCEIVED AS USEFUL TO DEVELOPING NATIONS AND THAT WORLD ENTERING HISTORIC PHASE ANTIPATHETIC TO DEMOCRACY;" "BRAZIL WILL NOT ACCEPT A STRONG VENEZUELAN LEADERSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA." IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA, PAPERS QUOTED HIM SAYING "LATIN AMERICA LIVES IN AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS OF AUTHORITARIANISM IN THIS STAGE OF ITS HISTORY AND

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VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA, THE ONLY 2 DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH, CAN, IN THE LONG RUN ENTER THIS PICTURE IF THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO TLA THEIR DEVELOPMENT". THEY ALSO QUOTE HIM AS SAYING THAT "THERE EXISTS IN VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA CONDITIONS

WHICH WOULD FRUSTRATE FALLING TO AUTHORITARIANISM".

3. POST STRONGLY URGES THAT ROETT BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED RE LOCAL SENSITIVITIES. IN MEETING THE PRESS HERE

HE HAS SPOKEN OUT ON ISSUES AND IN A MANNER MORE SUITED TO HIS

U.S. CLASSROOM THAN TO A FOREIGN AUDIENCE.

NEWNAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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To: BOGOTA
QUITO
Type: TE
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